



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,919	05/30/2001	Thomas R. Potter SR.	RJL/PO7244US02(30170)	7668
	7590 04/26/2005		EXAMINER MISKA, VIT W	
Laubscher & Laubscher 745 South 23RD Street Arlington, VA 22306			ART UNIT      PAPER NUMBER 2841	
DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



09866919

**Failure to Acceptably Respond to  
Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)  
No New Time Period for Reply is Provided**

The amendment document filed on 12/20/04 fails to provide the corrective action required by the prior Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) mailed on 2/15/05. The amendment, including both the originally filed amendment and the amendment filed in response to the prior notice, is still considered to be non-compliant under 37 CFR 1.121. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the item(s) listed below is required. **Only the corrected section of the non-compliant amendment document must be resubmitted (in its entirety), e.g., the entire "Amendments to the claims" section of applicant's amendment document must be re-submitted.** 37 CFR 1.121(h).

The period for reply continues to run from the mailing date of the prior Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. The corrections listed below must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of the application. No new time period for reply is provided in this communication. See the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 714.03.

If the period for reply set forth in the prior Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant: (1) corrects the deficiency, and (2) obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in the prior Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121).

THE FOLLOWING CHECKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

- 1. Amendments to the specification:
  - A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
  - B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
  - C. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Abstract:
  - A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
  - B. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Amendments to the drawings: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Amendments to the claims:
  - A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
  - B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
  - C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following 7 status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Previously presented), (New) and (Not entered).
  - D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
  - E. Other: Duplicate claim 42 one say cancel and the other claim 42 is amended.

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714 and the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/officetlyer.pdf>.

John O'Byrne  
Supervisory Legal Instruments Examiner (SLIE)

511-272-1620  
Telephone No.

38 (previously presented) An electronic parking meter system according to claim 36, wherein said electronic parking meter further including means for signaling the controller that a vehicle is in the parking space and that no coins have been deposited in the electronic parking meter .

39 (previously presented) An electronic parking meter system according to claim 38, wherein said electronic parking meter further including means for delaying the notification of the controller of the depositing of coins in the electronic parking meter from the time that the detection sensor detects the presence of a vehicle in said parking space.

Claims 40 - 41 (Canceled)

42. (Amended) A component of an electronic parking meter system, comprising:  
 an inductive loop vehicle detection sensor located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof; the inductive loop comprising a winding of several loops wound one on top of the other; means for securing the several loops to preserve the axial orientation of the winding and maintain the signal output from the winding; the winding being embedded in the parking space; and the respective ends of the winding being twisted with respect to one another to reduce the electric field effects of the winding;

an electric parking meter for determining the time a parking space associated with the electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time; [[and]]

a microprocessor controller coupled to the sensor and the electronic parking meter and receiving the respective signal from said inductive loop and indicative of the presence or absence of a vehicle for selectively controlling the electronic parking meter ; and

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

Claims 42-45 (canceled)

46. (Amended) A component of an electronic parking meter system, comprising:  
an inductive vehicle detection sensor located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof;

an electronic parking meter for determining the time a parking space associated with the electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time;

a microprocessor controller coupled to the sensor and the electronic parking meter and receiving the respective signal indicative of the presence or absence of a vehicle for selectively controlling the electronic parking meter; [[and]]

said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the sensor signals the controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the parking space;

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

47. (previously presented) The component of an electronic parking meter of claim 46, wherein said controller minimizes power consumption by de-energizing the sensor in response to no time displayed on the electronic parking meter.